



Washington State Department of Agriculture *Hearing Notice*

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

WSDA proposes matrix of fines for fertilizer law violations

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) proposes to establish a matrix that clearly defines uniform penalties for violations of state fertilizer laws. Proposed fines range from \$400 to \$7,500 and would take into account the seriousness of the violation, whether it is a first or repeat offense, and other circumstances to consider. Public comments on the proposal will be heard at 6 p.m. Dec. 3 at three locations, simultaneously through a satellite link provided by the Department of Information Services. The locations include:

- Lacey: 710 Sleater Kinney Road SE, Suite Q
- Spokane: 1101 N. Argonne, Suite 109
- Kennewick: 8851 W Gage Blvd., Suite H

WSDA enforces state fertilizer rules, investigates alleged product deficiencies, and inspects facilities that produce and distribute fertilizers.

“The penalty matrix warns violators and allows us to fairly and consistently assess penalties,” said Ted Maxwell, manager of the agency’s fertilizer registration program. “We already have the authority to issue fines or cancel licenses, but this matrix, or assignment schedule, strengthens the predictability of how we’ll respond to violations.”

The proposed language is based on a similar tool that has been used to assess penalties for violations of state pesticide laws and rules and was developed with the assistance from the department’s Fertilizer Advisory Committee.

Comments must be received by Dec. 3. For a copy of the proposed rules, call Laurie Mauerman at (360) 902-2012. Send written comments to: Washington State Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Management Division, P.O. Box 42589, Olympia, WA 98504-2589. Comments may also be sent by FAX to (360) 902-2093, or e-mail Laurie Mauerman at lmauerman@agr.wa.gov.

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